

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application.

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities concerning the term "irregular" throughout the specification. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rampen (U.S. Pat. No. 4,694,849). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of informalities regarding the term "irregular" throughout the specification. In response the Applicant has amended the specification such that the terms "irregularly shaped" are deleted from the entirety of the specification as they define the notch that tapers inwardly to a point. By amending the specification in this fashion, the confusion of one of ordinary geometric skill as to how the regular shape of a tapered surface can be characterized as irregular is resolved. Thus by resolving this confusion the objection to the specification is considered overcome.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In response the Applicant has amended independent claim 1, lines 4-5 and 12-13 to state "a metered porting notch that tapers inwardly to a point". This

amendment was suggested by the Examiner to cure the confusion between a tapered surface being either a regular shape or the characterization as being irregular. Consequently upon employing the Examiner's suggestion, the § 112 rejection is considered overcome. Furthermore dependent claims 2 and 3 that depend on claim 1 additionally overcome the § 112 rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rampen. In response the Applicant has cancelled claims 4-8. Thus this rejection is considered overcome.

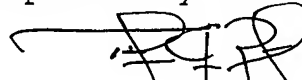
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and arguments, Applicant believes that claims 1-3 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

All fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this response are attached hereto; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



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